

REMARKS

By this amendment, applicants have amended paragraph [0025] of the substitute specification to correct a clerical error. Applicants have also amended claims 1 and 3 to more clearly define their invention. In particular, claims 1 and 3 have been amended to eliminate the expressions deemed indefinite by the Examiner in numbered section 3 of the office action. Claim 1 has also been amended to recite that the length of the first flat face sheet is equal to the length of the flat center core member that the whole face of the first flat face sheet is adhered to substantially a whole face of the flat center core member, and that the flat center core member and a side of the end portion of the second flat face sheet is not adhered to the second flat face sheet, whereby the second flat face sheet is partially adhered to the flat center core member. See, e.g., Figure 1 and paragraphs [0023] and [0024] of the substitute specification. Applicants have canceled claim 2 and added claims 10 - 21 to define further aspects of the present invention.

In view of the foregoing amendments to claims 1 and 3 and the cancellation of claim 2, it is submitted all of the claims now in the application comply with the requirements of 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 - 3 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, are requested.

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,491,032 to Verschaeren. Applicants traverse this rejection and request reconsideration thereof.

One embodiment of the invention set forth in rejected claim 1 is shown, by way of

example only, in Figure 1. Figure 1 shows a composite panel including a first flat face sheet 11, a second flat face sheet 12, and a flat center core member 13 provided between the first flat face sheet 11 and the second flat face sheet 12. The length of the first flat face sheet 11 is equal to a length of the flat center core member 13. An end portion 12a of the second flat face sheet 12 is positioned shorter than the end portion of the flat core member 13. The whole face of the first flat face sheet 11 is adhered to substantially a whole face of the flat center core member 13. The center core member, and the side of the end portion 12a of the second flat face sheet 12 is not adhered to the second flat face sheet 12, whereby the second flat face sheet 12 is partially adhered to the flat center core member 13. See, e.g., numbered paragraphs [0023] and [0024] of the substitute specification. It is submitted the invention set forth in independent claim 1 is neither disclosed nor suggested by Verschaeren.

The patent to Verschaeren discloses a masking film consisting of one or more layers to use when selectively lacquering parts of a surface, in particular of cars, with a polar outer layer. The masking film 1 shown in the sole figure of Verschaeren is composed of three layers, and ionomeric layer 2, a middle layer 3 which consists of linear low density polyethylene, and an inner layer 4 which consists of medium density polyethylene. While the sole figure of Verschaeren shows the inner layer 4 as being shorter than the middle layer 3 which, in turn, is shorter than the ionomeric layer 2, it appears the layers are shown in this manner in the figure in order to more easily depict the invention. However, there is no disclosure that, in fact, the inner layer 4 should be made shorter than the middle layer 3 which, in turn, should be made shorter than the ionomeric layer 2. Since the Verschaeren patent does not clearly describe the relative

lengths of the three layers, it is submitted the Verschaeren patent does not clearly disclose the composite panel set forth in claim 1.

In any event, as now set forth in independent claim 1, a length of the first flat face sheet is equal to a length of the flat center core member. This is clearly not shown in the sole figure of Verschaeren. Moreover, according to the present invention, the flat center core member and a side of the end portion of the second flat face sheet is not adhered to the second flat face sheet, whereby the second flat face sheet is partially adhered to the flat center core member. Assuming the middle layer 3 of Verschaeren is adhered to the ionomeric layer 2 and the inner layer 4 of the masking film, there is no suggestion in Verschaeren that the middle layer should be partially adhered to either the ionomeric layer 2 or the inner layer 4.

Therefore, the Verschaeren patent does not disclose and would not have suggested the presently claimed invention.

Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by United States Patent No. 3,222,769 to Le Plae. Applicants traverse this rejection and request reconsideration thereof.

One embodiment of the composite panel set forth in claim 3 is shown, by way of example only, in Figure 5. Figure 5 shows a composite panel, including a first flat face sheet 11, a second flat face sheet 12, and a flat center core member 13 provided between the first flat face sheet 11 and the second flat face sheet 12. The first flat face sheet 11, the second flat face sheet 12 and the flat center core member 13 are bent at a portion between their ends. In the embodiment shown in Figure 5, they are bent at a 90° angle at their mid-points. According to the invention set forth in claim 3, the first flat

face sheet 11 is a separate sheet from the second flat face sheet 12. Such is neither disclosed nor suggested by the Le Plae patent.

In Le Plae, a strip structure is made from a one-piece strip 4 of sheet metal, including transversely extending core elements 6, covered by a covering 3 as a result of a conventional and well known extruding operation. The strip structure is bent into a channel shape.

The Examiner equates the covering 3 on either side of the core elements 6 with the first and second flat face sheets of the present invention. However, according to the present invention, the first flat face sheet is a separate sheet from the second flat face sheet, whereas in Le Plae, the covering 3 is a single covering produced by well known extruding operations or by the use of any other suitable means. Therefore, the Le Plae patent does not disclose the presently claimed invention.

Newly added claims 10 and 11 depend from claim 1 and, therefore, are neither disclosed nor suggested by Verschaeren. Newly added claims 12 - 22 are also neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record, including the patent to Verschaeren, since the prior art does not disclose a composite panel having a flat center core member having first and second major surfaces; a first flat face sheet having a length substantially equal to a length of the flat center core member and being adhered to substantially all of the first major surface of the flat center core member; and a second flat face sheet having a length shorter than the length of the flat center core member and having a first end portion adhered to a first end portion of the second major surface of the flat center core member, and a second end portion including a second end terminating short of a second end of the flat center core member, the second end

portion of the second flat face sheet not being adhered to the second major surface of the flat center core member.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims now in the application are requested.

To the extent necessary, applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case: 503.39842X00), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP



Alan E. Schiavelli
Registration No. 32,087

AES/jla
(703) 312-6600

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OKADA et al
US Serial No. 09/805,055

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 7, amend paragraph [0025] as follows:

[0025] Next, the bending processing method of producing the composite panel will be explained. Fig. 1 shows a state in which the above-stated composite panel is set on a bending processing device. Firstly, the composite panel is laid on a stationary table 30 and a bending table 40 of the bending processing device. The faces of the stationary table 30 and the bending table 40 are positioned in the same horizontal plane. The composite panel is laid on the stationary table 30 and the bending table 40 with the face sheet 12 facing up. The side of panel where the non-adhesion portion 12a is located, on which the bending processing is to be carried out, is located on the bending table ~~40~~ 50.

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Amended) A composite panel comprising:

a first flat face sheet, a second flat face sheet, and a flat center core member joined to ~~provided between~~ said first flat face sheet and said second flat face sheet, characterized in that

a length of said first flat face sheet is equal to a length of said flat center core member;

an end portion of said second flat face sheet is positioned shorter than an end portion of said ~~first flat face sheet~~ center core member; and

a whole fac of said first flat face sheet is adhered to substantially a whole face of said flat center core member; and

said flat center core member in a side of said end portion of said first-second flat face sheet is not joined-adhered to said first-second flat face sheet, whereby said second flat face sheet is partially adhered to said flat center core member.

3. (Amended) A composite panel comprising:

a first flat face sheet, a second flat face sheet, and a flat center core member joined-provided between and adhered to said first face sheet and said second flat face sheet, characterized in that

said first flat face sheet, said second flat face sheet, and said flat center core member are bent in a midway at a portion between their ends; and

each of said first flat face sheet and is a separate sheet from said second flat face sheet is respectively one sheet.